

2 TROUBLES OF SHEEPMEN AIDED IN WASHINGTON

Utah Delegation in Congress, Discuss the Situation in Emery County With Regard to Limiting Grazing Facilities on the Manti Reserve.

(By A. F. Phillips.)

(Special to The Tribune.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 23.—The last issue of the Emery County Progress, received here today, contains an attack upon the Utah Senators regarding the grazing of sheep upon the Manti forest reserve. The article is misleading or its author misinformed.

The Manti forest reserve contains 384,000 acres of land. In setting this apart as a forest reserve the Government, through its officials, had no intention of depriving the people of the range it afforded for stock. The one thing kept in view was that it should not be overfed, hence the orders that individual applications must be made, so that the number could be regulated before applications were granted.

Senator Smoot, in speaking of the matter today, said: "The object of the Government, in addition to not permitting the devastation of the range and the preservation of the immediate watershed on this great reserve, was that the sheep industry should not be wiped out."

"Thus far 337 applications have been received for permits to graze upon this reserve. Assuming that the average number for each applicant is 1500, that would mean the grazing of over half a million sheep upon the reserve."

"As to the division of these permits between Sanpete and Emery counties, if flockmasters of the latter have not been granted permits, it is because they have not made application, or have not got the sheep."

"The reserve is not a sheepmen's preserve, neither is it intended as a preserve for cattle men, nor is it to tie up this great body of land for a water shed. The Government is doing, and will do, all in its power to protect the sources that supply people with water, but in doing it cannot wipe out at one fell swoop an industry which would mean ruin to a large number of people."

"Sheepmen in Sanpete and Emery counties had to have a place to graze their herds this year, and a letter from Mr. William Howard, asking that permission be granted to a herder covering the stock of all the small farmers of Emery county, I went to the Interior department to see if that request could be granted, but was informed that the rules of the department were such that every owner of stock must make personal application, and the reasons for this were written to Mr. Howard by the department."

"The statement that 300,000 sheep was the largest number ever grazed on the reserve is an error, for as near as the Commissioner of the General Land Office can figure the number, we find that between 450,000 and 500,000 were grazed upon this reserve."

Senator Kearns has had quite a considerable correspondence upon this matter, and in January of this year the Interior department was disposed to say that the claims of the sheepmen were somewhat exaggerated. The department made a most thorough examination of existing conditions in the field, and certificates of ownership made by sheepmen themselves show that the number of sheep were not to exceed 250,000 head which had grazed upon the reserve last season, while sheepmen claim that 300,000 were there.

Taking the assessment rolls of Sanpete and Emery county as representing two-thirds of the sheep owned, there is a total of 354,000, and many of these pastured outside of the range.

In consideration of all these appeals and to conserve all interests, that of the sheepmen, the farmer and the citizens who live along the streams and use the waters for culinary and domestic purposes, the Interior department, Lawrence, Moline, Clawson and Emery, the Secretary of the Interior on August 12th last decided to allow but 100,000 sheep to graze upon this reserve during the season of 1904, but at a later date he changed the order so as to allow 150,000 sheep. The Secretary feels that this was a liberal allowance for the season of 1904, and even greater than was allowed, solely for the purpose of giving sheep-owners a reasonable opportunity to adjust their business to existing and new conditions without material loss.

It appears that the situation is more serious than the Department of the Interior realizes, and a committee of wool growers are coming to Washington, and through Senator Kearns will have an opportunity of presenting their side of the case. It is hoped that a satisfactory adjustment of the matter now at issue may be accomplished.

Senator Kearns, in speaking of the question, said: "All things being equal, I believe whatever prejudice I may have on any public question is with the common people; by that, of course, I mean the masses. The farmers of Utah have had a hard time of it, and I wish upon any subject to be given the most careful consideration. Nor am I unmindful of the commercial importance of the sheep and cattleman. They have benefited the State in no small measure, and any proposition which would put them out of business or unnecessarily embarrass them will not have my support."

The question of grazing sheep and cattle is a most important one. It affects a variety of interests, and all of these should be considered from an equitable standpoint before a final determination is reached. It is true that petitions have been sent in by farmers protesting against any further increase in the number of sheep that will be permitted on the Manti forest reserve. The signers of these petitions point out the damage that is directly done them through the pollution of the water and increased liability to floods. They claim that the watershed is being covered with water to the extent of making it a menace to health, then I am opposed to the sheep."

"But it occurs to me that there is a middle ground, a position which can be taken that does not mean bankruptcy to the sheepmen, and which will conserve the best interests of the people. What this middle ground is can only be determined by the interests involved, and if they will only get together and discuss the situation on its merits the middle ground will be easy of definition. I have striven for this since coming to Congress, and I shall always insist that concerted action upon the part of all interests can be the only means of solving a question, the ex parte discussion of which only produces bad feeling."

Talking with Congressman Howell upon the question of grazing sheep on the Manti forest reserve, he said: "I have had many letters upon the subject, a number presenting the opposite side of the question, and very strongly by the sheepmen. The Interior department is in sympathy with the opponents of the sheepmen and its influence will, I believe, be in the direction of decreasing limitation of the number of sheep allowed within the confines of the Manti forest reserve, but all other reserves from year to year until the number is reduced to a minimum."

"That influence has been felt right along by the Utah delegation in Congress, and very strongly by the sheepmen, who are bewailing their sad fate in being so suddenly cut down in their grazing privileges. That question has two very sharply contrasted aspects, and it is a little difficult for the Utah representatives here to see who their recommendations and exert their influence as to give satisfaction all around."

"The sheep interests in Utah are very vast, and it will not do to suddenly refuse them all grazing privileges, for they would at once wipe out a large part of these interests. The sheep owners must be allowed time in which to adjust themselves to the new policy of forest reserves, and this will be accomplished by a decreasing limit from year to year in the number of sheep allowed in any reserve."

"This year 300,000 sheep are to be allowed in the Manti reserve; next year only 250,000. The limit, it will be seen, changes rapidly, but this will give sheepmen opportunity to dispose of flocks or otherwise adapt themselves to the changing conditions without serious loss."

"I have not had very much to do with the present agitation upon this question; the Senators have participated in all the movements of the department and have been instrumental in saving the sheepmen from what they claimed to be sudden and utter annihilation, by getting the General Land office to consent to a more gradual policy in reducing the greater privileges in the reserve to sheepmen from year to year."

"The statement that the purpose of forest reserves is to protect the water supply of cities and towns, and the presence of sheep in great numbers on any particular water shed means the gradual decline of that water shed. In the future there is no doubt that in the being thrown down for the sheepmen to the detriment of all other interests."

It will be seen from these interviews that the Utah delegation has been doing everything in its power to protect all the interests involved to the effect that no one industry shall be ruthlessly sacrificed.

PROTEST FROM SANPETE.

Farmers in South Part Object to Increased Grazing.

(Special to The Tribune.)
EPHRAIM, Feb. 23.—Since the recent modification of the order of the department relative to the increase of the number of sheep allowed on the Manti forest reserve during the coming season the farmers of South Sanpete have been greatly agitated over the question of grazing privileges.

Several meetings of the farmers have been held and committees are appointed to act as "walking delegates" to the Interior department to present the signatures against the modification of the modified order, which allowed 150,000 head of sheep to graze on the reserve.

The order as modified grants grazing privileges on the reserve to 150,000 head of sheep during 1904. The petitioners claim that 300,000 were there.

The sheepmen are jubilant over the second modification secured by Senators Kearns and Smoot.

On the other hand, the farmers of the south end of the county have determined to seek Governmental protection of their watersheds.

The agitation is wholly among the agriculturists, who claim their interests in the question have been made of secondary consideration to those of the large sheep owners, and that they will be greatly damaged if the present modified order relating to the grazing of sheep on the reserve is carried out. The petitions from Gunnison and Mayfield in circulation are as follows:

THE PETITION.
To the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.—Sir: We, your petitioners, respectfully represent that the towns of Gunnison and Mayfield, with a population of about 300 souls, are in Sanpete county, Utah, and are mainly sustained by agriculture, and in a great measure dependent on the waters of Twelve-Mile creek, in said county, for water for irrigation purposes.

The watershed of said Twelve-Mile creek is situated in grazing district No. 6 of what is known as the Manti forest reserve, and embraces about 60,000 acres of land.

"That, for grazing purposes, under the first modification of the number of sheep allowed to run on said forest reserve for the year 1904, the number of sheep so allowed to be grazed on said forest reserve increased from 100,000 to 150,000 head."

"That, in appointing the number of sheep to be grazed on the several districts of said reserve, under said allotment of 150,000 head, for the year 1904, the honorable supervisor of said reserve, A. M. Jensen, allotted to said district No. 6, 21,500 head of sheep."

"That, since making said allotment the department, as we are credibly informed, has modified said allotment, and, for the year 1904, has increased the whole number of sheep to be allowed to graze on said forest reserve from 100,000 to 150,000 head."

"That, we are informed by said supervisor that this modification will necessitate a pro rata increase of the number of sheep to be grazed on said district No. 6, instead of there being allowed 21,500 head of sheep to be grazed thereon, for the year 1904, the number will be increased to about 37,500 head."

"Wherefore, we, your petitioners, the Gunnison Irrigation company, a corporation, and the Mayfield Irrigation company, a corporation, who handle the water of

said Twelve-Mile creek, for use and benefit of their stockholders, the other signers of this petition, humbly represent that if this proposed allotment of sheep to be grazed on district No. 6 be increased as proposed, then one of the primary objects of establishing said forest reserve, the conservation of the water supply of the people, will be utterly disregarded, all the water shed from the establishment of said forest reserve by the parent Government."

"That if the allotment of sheep to be grazed on said district be increased to 37,500 head, or any number above the present allotment, then said district will not only be destroyed as a watershed for the people, but in a short time it will be virtually trampled out and annihilated as a grazing place for sheep or any other kinds of stock."

"That without any reserve being established in the past, we, your petitioners, humbly represent that the present allotment of said district No. 6, been burdened with 24,000 head of sheep."

"For reasons given above, and many more than might be conveniently given, we ask that immediate steps be taken to correct the present wrong, and to see that the forest reserve, as established, may not be a greater burden upon the people whom it was sought to relieve than the present situation."

"The interests of 3000 of the inhabitants of the towns of Gunnison and Mayfield ruined the watershed from the establishment of about twelve sheep owners of this county."

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MAYOR BALKED BY REPUBLICAN COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1.)

that \$500 be appropriated to the credit of Dr. C. M. Bennett for services rendered to the city in attending to Patrolman Heath at the time of his encounter with hold-ups and for other services. The sum is much less than that claimed by the doctor, who will likely bring suit against the city.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The special committee, to which was referred the Mayor's appointment, reported adversely, the report being signed by Davis, Hobday and Preece. After giving the Mayor's side and quoting his first message to the Council the report says:

"The sentiments expressed in the above message are good for a fellow. Sincerely yours, M. A. HANNA."

"Friday P. M." The next day a reply was received from the President, with a note stating that it was to be shown to the Senator when Mrs. Hanna thought best. Senator Hanna never saw the reply.

After Senator Hanna's death President Roosevelt sent the letter to Mrs. Hanna, in order that copies of it might be made by the family for preservation. The original will be returned to the President.

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MASKED BANDITS MAKE HAUL AT CALIENTES

House Car of Construction Crew on San Pedro Line Invaded, and Laborers, Mostly Greeks, Despoiled of Savings—Robbers Secure Nearly \$3000.

(Special to The Tribune.)

MODENA, Utah, Feb. 23.—A box car of a swing train which had returned last night from the terminus of the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad, and which was sidetracked for the night at Calientes, Nev., was the scene of a successful hold-up at 3 o'clock this morning by three armed and masked men.

Fifteen railroad laborers, principally Greeks, who were sleeping in the car, were awakened by the bandits who, with leveled revolvers, ordered them to line up and face outward with hands up.

One of the bandits commanded the situation from the end door of the car, while one of his companions proceeded to rifle the pockets of the badly frightened laborers, and a third robber stood guard on the outside.

One of the Greeks, who showed some hesitation in obeying the commands of the bandits, was battered over the head with a revolver, and an ugly-looking fellow, who was presumed to be a Greek, was promptly with orders.

The laborers were so badly frightened that they claim only to have observed the revolvers and masks made of blue overall cloth wrapped about the faces of the bandits, and they are unable to

give the slightest description as to the appearance of the robbers.

Between \$2000 and \$3000, which represented the wages of the men, who had just been paid off, together with their entire savings, was secured.

Most of the money stolen was foreign coin, consisting of Peruvian gold pieces, Canadian \$20 gold pieces and some English sovereigns.

The heaviest loser was a Mexican, who had over \$1000 on his person.

The robbers entered the car through the end doors, the laborers having locked the side doors before turning in to sleep.

The citizens of Calientes are greatly excited over the hold-up, and the country therabouts is being scoured for the bandits by Sheriff Johnson, the Sheriff of Lincoln county, and deputies, but up to a late hour this evening no clue has been found as to who the robbers are or in what direction they fled.

Sheriff Johnson anticipates no trouble in capturing the bandits.

Two suspicious characters, with their baggage strapped on their backs and armed with shotguns, were seen last Friday between Milford and Lund, going southward. It is presumed they were joined by a suspicious character who purchased a ticket at Modena yesterday for Calientes. It is surmised that this was their first opportunity of securing any booty.

GREAT FIRE RAGING IN THE CITY OF ROCHESTER

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Fire broke out in the M. S. Phelps Piano Case Manufacturing company in the heart of the business section of Brookport, N. Y., at 1:30 this morning and consumed that building. Loss \$55,000.

LAST LETTER WRITTEN BY SENATOR HANNA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Senator Hanna's last written words were in the form of a letter to President Roosevelt, in which he acknowledged, in a way quite characteristic of the President's thoughtfulness in calling at his hotel to inquire about the Senator's condition. The letter was written on the afternoon of Friday, February 5th, and was the last business of any kind transacted by him.

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WILL DRIVE MIKADO'S ARMY INTO THE SEA

(Continued from Page 1.)

crippled off Port Arthur in the engagement which began February 8th.

"The Admiralty has no direct official information to support this except the manner in which the Japanese abandoned the attack at the end of forty-five minutes. It is pointed out at the Admiralty that two weeks have elapsed without the whereabouts of the Japanese fleet being definitely reported and the opinion is gaining ground that it has gone to a Japanese port for repairs."

"It is pointed out also that it has always been the Japanese policy to announce only victories to the Admiralty, adding: 'We know they sustained losses in the China war which were never admitted.'"

Japanese will make their base of operations along the line between Peking and Wonsan, Korea, relying upon protection from their fleet against a flank attack.

The Japanese army will from this line have to march 300 miles over mountainous country to the Yalu river, where they will find the Russians strongly entrenched. If they succeed in forcing this line back they will find another strong Russian line extending from the Yalu to Mukden. They may then divide their forces, using one-half to hold the Russians in check while the other half goes south to besiege Port Arthur. In this event the Japanese will be liable to a flank attack by the Northern Russian forces from Kirin.

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